

SIXTH DAY

Thursday 30 July 2015

DRAFT HANSARD

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LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

SIXTH DAY

Thursday 30 July 2015

The Speaker (**Mr Theodore Zurenouc**) took the Chair at 10.50 a.m..

There being no quorum present Mr Speaker stated that he would resume the Chair after the ringing of the Bells.

Sitting suspended.

Mr Speaker again, took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and invited the Member for Kompiam-Ambum and Minister for Environment and Conservation, Honourable **John Pundari** to say Prayers:

‘Our Father in Heaven, we sincerely thank you for a beautiful and blessed country. We thank you for a beautiful people, we thank you for our diversity because in our diversity you unite us in your love.

We thank you for your gracious abundant life that you blessed upon us, we thank you for the abundance of your love and mercies, we thank you and we give you our worship and our praise this morning.

Father, as we stand heads bowed, eyes closed oh Father, We confess that we are sinners and imperfect leaders. We have come short of your glory and dear Lord we just want to say that we are sorry.

Please Lord, through Jesus Christ our Lord, our saviour we pray for the forgiveness of our sins. We pray that you forgive us of all the sins we have committed against your commandments, your words. We pray and we are sorry that we have hurt many other people in the ways of our leadership. O Lord may you have mercy on us and as we pray for forgiveness, we pray that you forgive those who have sinned against us.

And May the good lord graciously bless us today, give us wisdom and understanding. May the power of the presence of your Spirit Lord lead us in our discussions.

Dear Lord, help us not to have any negative feeling against anyone and amongst ourselves, but dear Lord to wisely dwell on issues and matters of importance before us for the sake of your people.

Dear Lord we just want to say that in our imperfections and sinfulness we just want to say that Lord we love you and that you are the God of our life and of our country. Amen.’

**PENDING COURT CASE FOR MEMBER FOR BOGIA-
STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, during yesterday's sitting the Chair asked the Honourable Member for Bogia to leave the Chamber during a very important vote until he ascertain the status of the Member before the Leadership Tribunal that he is currently in.

Based on legal advice obtained the Chair will now make a short statement clarifying the Chair's position on that matter.

The Chair has been duly advised that the honourable Member has been arraigned and went before a Leadership Tribunal appointed to hear misconduct charges against him late last week.

The chair must remind honourable Members that it is not the Chair's obligation to interpret the *Constitution* as the premise lies solely in the hands of the Court. However, Members also need to be reminded that ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Section 28 of the Organic Law on Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership sets out very clearly and in no uncertain terms that where a Member has been referred to a tribunal under *Section 27*, 'the person alleged to have committed misconduct in office is suspended from duty.

While the Chair concedes that no written notification advising of the suspension was given to the Chair prior to the ruling yesterday, the Chair confirms that it did receive from the Chief Justice His Honour Sir Salamo Injia on the 1st of July, 2015 a letter and an instrument of appointment of a Leadership Tribunal to investigate allegations of misconduct in office against Honourable John Hickey.

The Supreme Court in the case of Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare versus Chronox Manek, 2011, SC 118 held that and I quote, 'the suspension under *Section 28 on the Organic Law on Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership* takes place the moment a decision is made to refer a leader to a leadership tribunal.

02/06

The Supreme Court further held that, "For avoidance of any doubt, we reiterate and I quote:"suspension is triggered or takes effect from the moment a decision is made to refer a leader to a leadership tribunal by the Public Prosecutor," unquote.

The Chair is satisfied that the Honourable Member's Leadership Tribunal is well beyond this stage and considers the Honourable Member for Bogia effectively suspended

from duty until such time as the Leadership Tribunal completes its investigations and hands down a decision or the completion of an appeal process should there be one.

The Chair is not obliged to apologise to the Member for Bogia for my ruling yesterday as quite clearly the Honourable Member was mistaken in his presumption that he was not suspended and should have known very well that by operation of law and the fact that he had presented himself before the Leadership Tribunal that he was suspended from duty.

The Chair is satisfied that this matter is *sub-judice* and before the Leadership Tribunal and rules that no more discussions will be allowed on this matter whilst the matter is pending before the Leadership Tribunal.

I appeal once again to individual Members who are before Tribunals to exercise some self-respect, self-restraint and endeavour to uphold the dignity and decorum of the House by voluntarily excusing themselves from the Chamber during their Tribunal processes.

It is the Chair's prerogative and duty to uphold the dignity and decorum of the House and to prevent as much as possible the House being brought into disrepute. Hence, Honourable Members, the Chair again invites all Members with current proceedings before the Courts and Tribunals to come to my office to discuss your respective matters to avoid any inconveniences for all and for each concerned Member and the House. Thank you.

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! While saying that, it would be appreciated if the Chair makes a statement about the convicted prisoner having access to this Parliament.

Mr SPEAKER – You need to go and seek legal advice on that matter, if it has been obvious that he has been charged under the Leadership Code. It does not affect his sitting in the Chamber, I am sorry.

Sir Michael Somare – Point of Order! Sometime ago you allowed the Governor of Gulf to sit in the Chamber although he was already convicted. How can you allow a Member who has not been convicted yet to be sent out of the Chamber?

Mr SPEAKER – I think different set of law applies here. The Member for Bogia is before a Leadership Tribunal, charged under the Criminal Code unlike the Governor of Gulf, so it is beyond the control of the House to deal with the Governor of Gulf.

So different sets of law apply here and therefore it is very clear. There is no point for us to argue on.

QUESTIONS

Discipline in the Defence Force

Mr WERA MORI – Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to direct my questions to the Minister for Defence. The reason why I am asking these questions is because last Saturday some innocent school children on their way to Kilakila Secondary for a cultural event were bashed up by some drunkard soldiers.

Mr Speaker, I would like to ask these questions not necessarily as a Member of Parliament but in my capacity as a parent of children attending schools. It is not the first time that we have problems reported time and time again. Disciplined soldiers whom we expect to be disciplined go out to assault members of the public.

03/06

My questions are:

(1) Can there be an overview of the Defence Force structure by an independent body, so that we may know the disciplinary problems affecting our soldiers in force? Because of the recurrent problem and especially pertaining to discipline;

(2) Can the Defence Force be combined with the Police Force and be brought under the para-military force under the command of the Police Commissioner? This is so that the people of Papua New Guinea can be served better.

(3) If this not the case, can we seriously consider giving the Defence Force back to the Australian Army and let it become part of the seventh regiment? This is because the Australian army can be able to adequately fund, discipline and run our Defence Force.

Mr Speaker, when we fund the Defence Force, those resources are caught up with the higher command and it does not come down to the lower ranks. I recall that when I was a member of the Defence Force in the Australian Army, we never had this sort of problems. We were proud to join the army before but now, why have we built this reputation for the force, putting it on the other side of the fence?

(4) What actions has the Commander taken following the incident and what has become of the person or persons responsible for causing harm to an innocent child? The student has been traumatised and he will live with this experience for the rest of his life.

Mr FABIAN POK –I thank the Member for Chuave for his questions. As a human and a parent, it has not gone down very well due to the circumstances surrounding the questions. It is a very unfortunate situation, and it is continuously happening so we really need to take stock of what is happening within the Defence Force.

I will answer the last question first. When the incident happened, the Commander has taken control of the situation and those people who were involved have been locked up in the military holding cells and will be referred to the police.

This government is trying to build up the Defence Force and we are carrying out many programs in maintenance and others but it is very embarrassing as the Minister to stand up here each time to talk about disciplinary issues caused by few members.

These are the few that go around spoiling the image of the force and I want to assure the Parliament that the commander has locked all those involved in the fighting incident and appropriate action will be taken, to the extent where they will be likely terminated from the force.

I am determined and should conclude with us taking that action. On behalf of my family and the families of the many good officers of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, I wish to convey my apologies to the families who were caught up in this incident. Especially, to the family of the young boy who was injured. We hope and pray that he recovers and goes back to school and lead a normal life.

04/06

I think we have well and truly gone past that, meaning that we are now a sovereign State of Papua New Guinea and it will not look good if we ask the Australians to come and run our Defence Force or Police Force for that matter. But this Government has now invested a lot of money into the Defence Force and it is evident in Taurama Barrack, Murray Barracks and Goldie Barrack where we are doing a lot of maintenance. As I said earlier, one of the problems with the Defence Force is that their discipline is lacking because of the fact that over the years, we have neglected them. Neglected; meaning they live in houses which are not conducive for servicemen and many other factors. The other important thing that the Government has made a decision on is that because the Defence Force are living tribes, they

have companies and different groupings so if it affects one person, it affects the whole group and the decision to move Taurama Barracks out to a location outside of Port Moresby would solve a lot of problems because they would be outside of the city and not within the city where they can easily cause problems. It's an unfortunate situation, it happens and very good officers of men in the Defence Force are being blamed for one or two people's actions. As we talk now the Commander is taking control of the situation and is ensuring that the people who were involved are be locked and will be referred to the Police and the military investigation team are now investigating. As I have said, have asked the Commander to look into this issue very seriously even to the extent of discharging them from service in the military if found guilty.

Supplementary Question

Review of the Defence Force Act

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – Review the *Defence Force Act*! Time and time again we hear this same excuses in this Chamber. We can't use the basis of Governments under funding as an excuse. The issue of discipline.

My question is, are you ready and prepared to review the *Defence Force Act*? Because this has no relevance to his duties as a soldier.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – Mr Speaker, my questions are as follows,

(1) Bring a report to this Parliament to justify the actions of the soldiers as to what course of actions the hierarchy has taken against those undisciplined soldiers? Because the fiasco of Manu Auto Port is fresh on our minds.

(2) Are you prepared to amend the *Defence Force Act* to amend the discipline code against soldiers to be harsher penalties against undisciplined soldiers?

For example, if a soldier is involved in incidents like the recent one that just took place, he should be immediately sacked. So can the Minister answer these questions that he will look into this discipline issues affecting the Defence Force and assure us that in the event such situations occur, at least the public and the leaders are comforted that the Minister is

doing something in his capacity. Otherwise, we will be going on a merry go around with the same incident happening all over again.

Mr FABIAN POK – Thank you, Mr Speaker, the honourable Member for Kikori has been here for more than three terms so he will be having more problems with the Defence Force and people like me who just arrived.

I think the issue is not about changing the *Act*, because when you look at the behaviour of the Defence Force, it is not the act of the whole defence Force as an establishment, it is an act of individuals which we have to try and ensure that disciplined officers are within the force. This is the problem.

05/06

It is not the act of Defence Force as an establishment. It is an act of individual that we need to weed out to ensure discipline is in the Force. It is like what happened at the Gordon market with the Taris and the Waghis. They are acting as individuals and they are not acting in that manner because they are Jiwakans or Taris.

So what I am saying is that these actions of a few rogue soldiers is causing all these problems. Similarly, like in the Police Force, a few officers are bringing disrepute to the whole Constabulary.

Mr Speaker, I have just assured you that the Commander is dealing with them and we will make sure that they are out of the Defence Force altogether.

Honourable Member for Kikori has been out there on three occasions and he is well aware of the problem but he doesn't want to know about that problem.

Police Mobile Unit in Vanimu

Mr JOE SUNGI – Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Police. Can the Minister advise this Parliament, if he and his Department have any plans to place a permanent Mobile Squad in Vanimu at the PNG Indonesia Border?

Mr Speaker, all the Mobile Squad deployed are in wrong places. They are at places where they are not supposed to be, like Bulolo, Yangoru, and other parts of the nation.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr JOE SUNGI – Mr Speaker, why has the Government not deployed any mobile squad to the most important border of this country.

Mr Speaker, when I was the Provincial Administrator, I made numerous request for the deployment of specially trained Mobile Squad.

Can the Minister give a definite answer and what actions will be taken?

Let me brief advice you on how the Indonesian arrangement is done. They have a special police unit called the Pre-mob consisting of half Defence Force and half Police and specially trained for the border patrol.

Because it is of national interest regarding our border, please, can the Minister inform our people on the steps he will take to have a permanent well trained police unit to guard our border?

Mr ROBERT ATIYABA – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Nuku, for his very important question. We have mobile squad in all the provinces at least a squad or two. But, I can admit over there, I can take into account his concerns.

With the new Commissioner, we have set down and looked at breaking down the command post and we will have two command posts in the Highlands both east and west. The west command will be managed by an ACP that will include Hela, Enga and Southern Highlands. The east post will have Western Highlands Jiwaka and Simbu. We will also divide the Momase command into two. We will have Morobe Eastern Highlands and Madang and we are creating another command called the Border command that will have East Sepik, West Sepik and the Western Province. When we have those I can assure the Member we will have a STD Command there as well. I cannot give an exact thing now but I will speak, with the Commissioner and as soon as the new commands are in place next year, I can then tell you when we will eventuate to manage the border areas.

06/06

New commands are in place and we want to see it happening next year. If it does happen we will have the Special Services Division operation command there as well to manage the border areas.

Television in Papua New Guinea

Mr AIDE GANASI – Thank you Mr Speaker for recognising the people of South Fly but this question concerns Papua New Guinea. I wish to direct my question to the Minister for Communication.

Mr Speaker, it relates to the apparent move by the Government to control television market in the country. As you are aware and it is already evident through its recent acquisition of EM TV from the Fijian owners through the Government business arm Telikom PNG Limited.

Mr Speaker, my question is as follows:

In light of this new passage, can the Minister inform the people of Papua New Guinea what plans he has regarding the future of Kundu2 television network given the inclusion of EM TV to the Government's assets and investments which means the Government now effectively owns and operates 2 commercial television stations which, are now competing against each other for the television market in the country.

the Minister inform Papua New Guinea what plans he has regarding the future of Kundu 2?

Mr JIM MIRINGTORO – Thank you Mr Speaker and I also thank the Member for South Fly for his question with regard to the two television both owned by the Government.

Mr Speaker, the Member is probably asking why the two TV stations are competing. I am going to respond by saying that they are not competing but complementing each other.

Kundu 2 is broadcasting free government information and that is its primary objective of why it was given to this nation by the Grand Chief.

EM TV on the other hand is a commercial entity and Telikom has bought this station basically to promote business and to generate revenue for Telikom through its operations. Kundu 2 is guided by its own Act and its board and Telikom is also guided by its own Act.

Mr Speaker, looking at the purchase made by Telikom, I believe it was a very good move because people of this nation must have a commercial TV station. When we liberalise communication by allowing competition regime in this country and then we will have opened up markets for foreign companies to invest and operate in this country that is why EM TV came in as a foreign company. There are also foreign companies that came to invest in mobile telephoning however, they have spread their tentacles like octopus to go into TV broadcasting as well as another ICT broadcasting industry including print media.

07/06

Mr Speaker, as Papua New Guineans I see that we are losing very much in this very lucrative industry because we don't have some degree of ownership. Seeing this vacuum I have instructed my Department to work on cross-media ownership law. There is a team in place now who is working with my Department to draw - up a policy that will go through Cabinet for its approval. Once it's being approved it will go through a committee for normal legislative process to take its course, which finally will reach this Floor.

Mr Speaker, once this law come into effect PNG people will have some degree of ownership in this country. This means that the law will allow them to acquire certain percentages of shares either through the respective level of government or through normal business acquisition as what Telikom has done. By doing that I believe the reporting system in the media will improve a lot. There are laws that need to be tightened in this country and this Government is looking closely through my Ministry on the following; International Gateway Ownership. Why I am saying this because most of these illegal activities come through this gateway. And we are seriously looking at how we can control this international gateway.

We are also looking at the Submarine Cable Ownership, law has already been put in place but it's too general and this Government is trying to straighten this law so that we won't bring in so many unnecessary cables which will occupy the seas of this country.

We are also looking at Localization law; we know that in future there will be companies investing in communication industry and also ICP industries respectively. They will also put towers. Therefore, we have to control the number of towers in the country because so many towers will bring environmental damage to the surrounding communities. We are also looking at numbering system and general pricing of calls from one mobile operator to another operator. At the moment the service fees we are very high. Mr Speaker, very soon we will have Fibber Crime Legations which, will be tabled at the Floor of this Parliament in November and also Sim Card Registration.

Mr Speaker, I have answered most of the questions but, if the Member is not satisfied then he can forward the questions in writing so that I will answer them accordingly.

Oil and Gas in Western Province

Mr ATI.WOBIRO – Thankyou Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Petroleum and Energy.

Firstly, I want to thank both the Prime Minister and the Minister for Petroleum and Energy for their commitment to help develop natural gas and oil in the Western Province.

Mr Speaker, the recent signing of the MOU between the State and ExxonMobil has done much to improve energy security of this country by ensuring that some of our abundance natural gas resources are made available domestically for the generation of electricity. It has also ensured that the development of P'nyang gas field will now proceed sooner rather than later. It's a positive development not only for my Province but country as a whole.

In addition to the P'nyang field Western Province is blessed with a number of other small discoveries in mining and get sector.

Mr Speaker, my concern is that there are a lot of stranded gas fields of smaller volumes that needs to be captured so that both the developers and the people of Western Province benefit from this stranded gas fields.

My question is that:

(1) Can the Minister advise the Parliament and the people of Western Province as to whether the MOU places any kind of obligation on ExxonMobil to try and incorporate other existing regional or Western Province Gas Fields into proposed development of the P'nyang field, especially with regard to the proposed pipeline?

08/06

Mr NIXON DUBAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I want to thank the good Governor of Western Province for his question in relation to P'nyang.

Mr Speaker, the P'nyang MOU is an important document that was signed which places a new dimension in the business of domestic market obligation.

Mr Speaker, that MOU anticipates the need for stranded fields which will not have access to the pipeline and that's why the MOU has indicated that it will allow third party which is a major step in the industry.

Mr Speaker, previously the pipeline that is currently hosting the PNG LNG has little or no third party access basically for the purpose of accommodating all the fields currently owned by Exxon.

The pipeline that will run, possibly from P'nyang to Kutubu will have the same diameter as the current pipeline that has the capacity to have nine pcls, the pipeline that will be built from P'nyang to Kutubu may only have 2.5 to 3.0 pcls so there would be adequate space available for third party access.

That is an incredible achievement that the Government of Papua New Guinea, through the leadership of our Prime Minister has achieved to allow all those non Exxon fields to have access to those tie - in joints or wild stations which will allow aggregation of all the stranded resources to be developed.

Let me assure the Governor that we have considered all those issues when the MOU was designed and it will be a win-win situation for the people of Western Province and Papua New Guinea.

Removal of Deputy Chief Justice

Sir MICHAEL SOMARE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My questions are directed to the Honourable Prime Minister and are in relation to the possible removal of the Deputy Chief Justice.

(1) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that his government is now preparing papers to suspend the Deputy Chief Justice from office?

(2) If so, is it part and parcel of the Prime Minister's ongoing crusade to remove all officials involved in fighting corruption in Papua New Guinea?

(3) Is the Deputy Chief Justice going to be the latest victim in the Prime Minister's crusade after his removal of Tom Kulunga, Simon Kauba, Sam Koim, Jubilee Tindiwi, Rigo Lua and many others including the last one was the removal of assistant commissioner Thomas Eluh as Chief of Criminal Investigations?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the good Governor of Sepik for his questions and I am certainly very happy to answer those question because, Mr Speaker, there is no intention whatsoever and there are no powers given to either the National Executive Council or anybody. As former Prime Minister and one of our longest serving Members of Parliament he understands this very well. His question is mischievous and politically self-serving Mr Speaker.

Sir Michael Somare – Point of Order! I will not accept that nonsense from the Prime Minister. I want the Prime Minister to answer the questions that relates to people who have been suspended, people who have been investigating criminal corruption.

09/06

Mr SPEAKER – Allow the Prime Minister to answer the question.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker. He knows very well that the National Executive Council and the National Government does not have the power to appoint, suspend and appoint judges, especially the Deputy Chief Justice. That comes under the judicial appointment committee which is chaired by the Attorney General and the Member of that Committee is the Chief Justice himself.

I am not aware of such nonsense, Mr Speaker, it is absolute nonsense that any suggestion of the Deputy Chief Justice being suspended or side lined. We value his contribution to the judiciary, to the bench and he ought to be supported in the work that he is doing.

Let judges and individuals do their work individually in the professional manner that they deserve to do. Such critical influence and the nonsense that has purported to be influenced by members of leaders and individual is unnecessary.

Mr Speaker, I did not suspend Mr Tom Kulunga. He was convicted and as a result of that conviction he was removed. It was not my decision. It was the decision of the Court.

The other issues that he was related to are handled by relevant departments and relevant constabulary that are making decisions on its own accord. No government Minister, no government member and no prime minister has given any direction to any individual whatsoever for any potential action or to stop investigation.

I hope that the good Governor of East Sepik will have common sense to support the ICCAC Bill that we are putting on the Floor of Parliament and not create a stunt like what he did yesterday. Thank you.

Mr SPEAKER – I would like to caution the Honourable Members. We have the rules of the House. Whilst I ask your liberty to ask all kinds of questions, but you are guided by your Standing Orders. According to Standing Order 141 you are not supposed to be raising arguments and making inferences.

Please take time to read your Standing Orders. Be guided by them so we do not create unnecessary uproar and bring disrepute to Parliament.

South-east economic corridor through Pomio

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the people of Pomio District. I direct my question to the Prime Minister. Firstly, I thank the Father God for

this beautiful country of ours. Through him we live. Secondly, I thank the Prime Minister for his leadership. He has brought about a lot of changes in our country.

Mr Speaker, according to Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan 2010 – 2030, the government has identified 10 economic corridors in the country. The seventh economic corridor says that south coast economic corridor will connect East and West New Britain provinces. Most of these corridors will be connected through Pomio district.

SenNiugini is a company currently located in the Pomio district and is involved in the oil palm project. This is located in the Sinivit areas and branches out to Ios in Pomio District. They have opened up a Oil Mill last year. HR is now working in Mamusi to set up the second Oil Mill by June next year.

Mr Speaker, we acknowledge the support given by these companies and Pomio District Development Board Authority will work closely with them. Our priority now is to have the roads connect from Kokopo to Palmal to Pomio District and possibly to West New Britain Province. We have realised that our people cannot continue to use the sea transport because many lives have been lost at sea.

With these remarks, I acknowledge the works done by the former Member for Pomio Mr Paul Tinstein, for allowing these people to come and invest. I also acknowledge the works done by the Governor of West New Britain Province for initiating some road works through the DSIP funds.

Mr Speaker, during this Parliament meeting the Prime Minister has made an announcement regarding certain road infrastructure in Papua New Guinea.

My question is:

(1) Can the Government recognize the south east economic corridor which will connect East and West New Britain provinces? This road network will definitely benefit the people of Pomio District.

10/06

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thankyou Member for Pomio for your question. I have visited Pomio district on a few occasions and am pleased to see the changes that are taking place there. These developments are a result of to the oil palm industry production by two companies in that area.

It has significantly uplifted the living standards of our people, the opportunity to be employed and run small businesses in that area. And I want to commend the Member for the

good work that he is doing. I want to assure him that we prioritised Pomio as one of the economic corridors, which has one of the biggest potential in the country. The Government is therefore continuing to invest in the infrastructure in East and West New Britain.

Mr Speaker, one of our first priorities is to finish linking the highway that we have constructed between East and West New Britain. We are now in the process of constructing the bridges in the newly opened roads. After the construction of the bridges, we will seal the roads all the way from Kokopo to Kimbe, so that our people can have access to transport goods and services along that road.

For the Pomio district, a Cabinet decision was made that yesterday due to logging being one of the high priority economic activities taking place there. We will put all logging levies direct to the district. Pomio has got a substantial amount of funding in that trust account. These funds will be released to Pomio and they can start building their roads, in partnership with the developers who are developing the oil palm. With machinery and capacity, I think Pomio can go a long way in opening up a corridor for our people. I want to assure the Member that this government supports him and will continue to encourage him to do the good work he is doing for our people in Pomio.

Police Personnel in Porgera

Mr NIXON MANGAPE –My question is directed to the Minister for Police. I would like the Minister for Mining and the Prime Minister to take note.

A state of emergency was declared in 2009, and to this day 20 Papua New Guineans have lost their lives due to tribal fights. I have not seen the terms of reference for this call out.

(1) Are the police put there to protect the people and the mine or just the properties of the mine and not the people?

(2) Why is the department providing vehicle and firearms for the Porgera police Personnel? I have used my DSIP funds to purchase firearms and vehicle for the police there. To date we are hiring 20 vehicles to use for this call out.

(3) Does the Department of Police have any plans to address this issues? Porgera is a sensitive district and we need good command and control. Of the personnel deployed to on this call out and others and many have raised concerns that they are yet to be paid their allowances.

(4) Whose responsibility is this? Ten people were killed at Paiam town, in full view of police personnel

11/06

The Defence and Police Force Officers are complaining that the allowance they are receiving were once issued by the respective Barracks but today it is paid in the headquarters in Port Moresby and for the last one month they have not received any payment of allowance. As a result, 10 men were killed in front of the Police personnel at the Police Station at Paiyam Town because law enforcing officers were not there to control the law and order situation because they claimed that they were not paid their allowances by the Government not being paid by the Government. So what is happening with this situation?

Mr ROBERT ATIYABA– Thankyou Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Member for Porgera. The officers have been there for quite some time both the Defence and the Police for the call out exercise. I just want to inform the Parliament, Mr Speaker that I have sent the Deputy Commissioner of Police to review the call out exercise and the presence of police Personnel regarding the current situation that is happening. The Commissioner will provide me a report on the situation and I will then advise the Member. Of course this exercise has cost the Government a lot of money. The duty of a Police man is to protect the people and their property so when they were sent to Porgera. Porgera is a large scale mining so that it was only right that the Police men had to be there to protect the mine site and the areas surrounding the mine and the people.

While on that, I want to inform the leaders here that, when there is a tribal fight in the areas or ethnic clashes in the towns, we leaders need to take ownership and talk to our people. We must not leave these matters to be dealt with by the Police Officers alone because when the Police deal with these issues they don't really solve the problems so when the leaders really listen to the people, I know that it helps sort the problems and the people will listen to us leaders.

For the questions regarding vehicles and firearms, I can assure the Member that we will be assisting the Porgera Police with vehicles and firearms. As for the delay in allowance payments, I have to seek advice from the Commissioner and respond on that but as far as I know, when the officers are on a callout operation, there is a budget in place and that includes the allowance for vehicle allowances and for fuel, so allow me to confirm with the Commissioner and I will respond to you.

I would like to once again say thank you to the Members of Parliament and Governor for assisting the work of the committed by purchasing of vehicles and firearms for

them. These officers worked for us in our districts and they are our Police Officers and when you provide that help you are contributing to nation building and peace in the community.

National Intelligence Organisation in Papua New Guinea

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It relates to concerns about the National Intelligence Organisations. Mr Speaker, the National Intelligence Organisation for any country are the custodians of national secrets and they are very important in generating strategic thinking through research.

(1) Is the NIO still functioning or not?

(2) If it is not functioning then do we need such an organisation to protect our national interest?

12/06

Mr Speaker, we cannot have a conversation without everybody listening in on us. It is evident because when you go to key government departments there are all kinds of people whose offices are directly next to the Department Secretary. Many of these people are foreign consultants. Our national interests are exposed in the open and what are we doing to protect them.

(3) Do we really need those foreign consultants more than our own nationals to take care of our country's interests?

(4) How can we know if these foreign consultants are not spies and are leaking information of our country and its practices?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Kundiawa-Gembogl for his important questions.

Yes, let me say that the National Intelligence Office has not been in full function for quite some time now and in fact it has been rundown many years ago because of neglect by many governments including this Government.

The Cabinet recently appointed the current Police Commissioner to revamp that organization but because of his experience we moved him to the Royal Police Constabulary and today the Chief Secretary has been directed to recruiting a leader who will lead that organization into the future.

Mr Speaker, since taking office we have been talking to other counterpart agencies around the world in trying to rebuild this organization particularly, because it is important

that we have protection of our national interest and the national security of our country. The collection of intelligence is very important part of that exercise.

Today we live in a global community where we need to manage potential threats, along our borders, cyber-crime and a lot of other new found threats that will bring serious consequence to any government or country.

Mr Speaker, yes, we will continue to need that organization but we will put our efforts into revamping and funding the NIO and get them to work closely with many intelligence agencies around the world. We are working closely with some of the best today and they have already come in and have started helping to rebuild capacity within the National Intelligence Organization at my invitation.

Mr Speaker, these are things we cannot announce publicly but this work is continuing as we speak. This is to ensure that we are not influenced by outsiders in the work of protecting our national interests into the future.

Mr Speaker, I agree with the Member for Kundiawa-Gembogl that we have many foreign consultants working in our departments engaged as advisors. This has led to two things, firstly is making our nationals quite lazy. They are not able to take ownership of decisions and are over dependent on consultants and advisors. As a result sometimes they don't know what sort of decisions they are making. Sometimes the advice given to the Government are not in the best interest of our nation.

So our Government has taken a deliberate decision and by the end of the year all foreign consultants and advisors contracts will end by December 31, 2015.

Mr Speaker, if we need to recruit experts it will be recruited by the PNG Government as an employer of the PNG Government. That includes Policemen, and all other consultants in every line departments. There will be no arrangement with any other Governments where people are working directly for us. They must work in the interest of our country, not for anyone else.

Mr Speaker we have taken note of the concerns that the Member is raising and the Government is already working on that and the Minister for Public Service is taking leadership on that role.

13/06

Particular arrangements where people who are working directly for us. They must work in the interest of our country and not for anyone else. We have taken note of the

concerns that the Member is raising and Government is already working on that and the Minister for Public Service is taking the leadership role on that. Thank you.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform you the Question Time has lapsed so we will move on.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari- Minister for Finance) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent Notice Nos. 271, 272, 273, 274, 195, 275, 269, 268 and 270 being called on forthwith.

CRIMINAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Ano Pala** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Mr ANO PALA (Rigo – Minister for Justice and Attorney General) – I move –

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker and Members of Parliament, I have 5 related bills on money laundering and I will move the second reading separately but I will be giving one speech to cover the 5 bills.

Mr Speaker and Members of Parliament, it gives me great pleasure to introduce a package of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing bills designed to improve the effectiveness of Papua New Guinea's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing systems so that they meet international standards.

Mr Speaker, the bills are Criminal Code, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Bill and yet to come are United Nations Financial Sanctions Bill, Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Bill, Proceeds of Crime Amendment Bill 2015 and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Amendment Bill 2015.

Mr Speaker, money laundering and terrorist financing are global phenomena. They are highly lucrative crimes that flourish in the face of weak laws and weak enforcement. Although money laundering and terrorist financing are separate offences the two are linked by similarities. Both are involved in the illegitimate use of country's financial system. They both undermine the stability and sovereignty of a nation and both flourish in weak state with weak regulatory environment.

Money laundering is the process of making funds derived crime appear legitimate. The process of cleaning dirty money by disguising all gotten games in business, international funds transfers, and using them to purchase assets.

14/06

Mr Speaker, terrorists financing is the collection or provision of funds for terrorist organisations or terrorist acts. These activities are crimes that are the bread and butter of organised criminal groups, terrorists and a range of people who wish to exploit the current loop holes in our legal framework.

Most fundamentally, these are crimes that undermine the stability and integrity of our financial systems, thus, affecting our position as an emerging economy in the Asia Pacific Region. These are crimes that amass domestically but also globally.

Mr Speaker, our international peers have spoken sternly to PNG. We have been warned that if we do not rectify the loop holes in our current legislations, our economy and

reputation will suffer. Indeed, PNG is already been grey listed by the Financial Action Taskforce, identified by our international peers as having strategic deficiency in our current money laundering and counter terrorists financing laws. We have been given until this August of 2015 to pass the legislation or face the prospect of sanctions associated with being blacklisted.

We have already seen some costs of grey listing with some overseas banks becoming wearier of financial transactions coming from our shores. These packages of legislation has been developed following an extensive consultation process with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders, and has been subject to scrutiny by the Financial Action Taskforce Committee to ensure that it complies with PNG's international obligations and international best practices.

Mr Speaker, the Bills, are our opportunity to bring PNG off the grey list, and to signal to both investors and Papua New Guinean citizens that our financial systems are robust and our government stands steadfast to safeguard the integrity our country.

Mr Speaker, let me bring your attention to the details of the legislation. The first, part is the criminal code that is the one I had just presented. The proposed criminal code replaces PNG's current offence of money laundering and for the first time criminalises terrorist financing. This is so that the new offences comply with the International Financial Action Taskforce standards. Criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing under the criminal code will enable law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute those offences effectively.

The second Bill is the United Nations Financial Sanctions Bill. The proposed Bill implements the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 and 1373, and the Financial Action Taskforce standards on terrorist financing, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and article 41 of the of Charter of the United Nations.

Mr Speaker, the proposed Bill does two things. Firstly, it ensures that where the Security Council designates individuals and organisations, such as Al Quada, Taliban or an Islamic State as terrorists; financial institutions are obliged to freeze their assets of these entities as well. Secondly, it sets up domestic procedures for the Prime Minister upon advice of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to make an interim designation of an individual or organisation as a terrorist.

15/06

Secondly, it sets up domestic procedures for the Prime Minister on advice of the Department of Prime Minister and NEC to make an interim designation of an individual or organisation as a terrorist.

Thirdly, it sets up a procedure for the national court to oversee this decision to designate terrorist.

The Bill follows stringent processes and procedures, upholds human rights and provides for safeguard mechanisms consistent with constitutional protection.

Mr Speaker, the third Bill is Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorists Financing Bill.

The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorists Financing Bill will bolster PNG Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Regulation and supervision framework. The current regulatory and supervisory functions and reporting obligations are removed from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2005 and established in this proposed Bill instead.

This separates the regulatory framework from the investigation and confiscation operational framework which remains in the existing Proceeds of Crime Act. The AML and CTF bills have four key parts.

Firstly the bill sets up the obligation of financial institutions to have anti money laundering and counter terrorists financing systems in place to collect certain information and to report suspicious matters to the Bank of Papua New Guinea.

These obligations are similar to those originally in the Proceeds of Crime Act but had been bolstered to meet international standards and to keep the PNG context.

Secondly the Bill sets out the obligations of designated non-financial institutions and professions. These are similar to the obligations of financial institutions but importantly they are less onerous.

This ensures that our businesses and professions can continue to serve the PNG community and encourage financial intuition.

Thirdly, The Bill clarifies and obligations of regulatory agencies to supervise the compliance of financial institutions with their obligations and includes penalties for non-compliance.

And finally, The Bill establishes the financial analysis and supervision unit in the Bank of PNG as PNG's central agency responsible for collecting, analysing and disseminating financial information relating to anti-money laundering and counter terrorists financing.

This function is shifting from the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to allow the police to focus more closely on its core investigative functions.

This decision has been made with the support and following extensive consultations with relevant agencies and ministers.

The fourth Bill is Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill 2015, Mr Speaker, the proposed Proceeds of Crime Bill amends the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2005* to establish a comprehensive cross border cash declaration system to ensure criminals are not bringing into or taking out of Papua New Guinea large amounts of cash.

The Bill makes it an offence to make a false declaration or provide misleading information to authorities. The Bill also enhances the Proceeds of Crime Confiscation Regime to create a streamlined system for investigators and prosecutors to adequately detect money laundering and proceeds of crime matters through revived investigation powers and examination powers.

Mr Speaker, the final Bill is the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill 2015. This Bill is a short Bill with consequential amendments flowing from the amendments to the *Proceeds of Crime Act*. Where the Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill enhances PNG's confiscation regime, the amendments contained in the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters ensures that the PNG can use the *Proceeds of Crime Act* not just for domestic matters, but also to follow the money offshore.

16/06

Mr Speaker, the laws I am introducing today are, in large part, technical amendments to bring PNG's legal framework in line with international standards but they also represent a set of reforms that are fundamental to some of this Government's highest priorities.

Firstly, this Government is tough on crime, we will not stand for people from our own nation or from other countries in the region using PNG as a thoroughfare for their illegal operations. We will not stand for organized crime taking root on our shores. Anti-money laundering legislation is the next frontier in fighting transnational organised crime and this package of laws, harmonized with those in our region will help PNG do its part to combat transnational organised crime in our neighbourhood.

Secondly, these laws help tighten the checks and balances on those businesses, financial institutions and professionals who facilitate the laundering of money from crimes such as drug trafficking, fraud and corruption.

Thirdly, these laws are a fundamental plank in this Government's commitment to national security. Following 9/11, the world realised that tracing the financial flows of terrorists was key to understanding how terrorist organisations operate, who leads them, and when they are planning a terrorist act. This legislation gives PNG the power to trace and freeze funds that are to be used for terrorism.

Fourthly, these laws are key to the stability and integrity of our financial system now, and into the future. We have listened to the big banks here in Port Moresby and those cash dealers out on our borders, we have listened to the professionals working tirelessly to protect PNG's economy from being utilized by criminals.

We have listened to the business community, who demand that this Government help them make PNG an attractive place for investment. We have listened to the international reports that have indicated that a weak anti-money laundering legal regime is an impediment to economic growth and stability in PNG and we are responding with this package of laws.

Mr Speaker, Fifth and finally, these laws are a regional standard setter. PNG does not want to be first Pacific country on the Financial Action Taskforce 'blacklist' along with the likes of Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Afghanistan and others. With the passage of these laws, PNG will not only avoid the disrepute of being on the FATF blacklist, but will enhance its reputation as a key regional player in our neighbourhood. This is consistent with our APEC agenda.

PNG is currently well regarded as one of the fastest reforming countries in the Asia-Pacific when it comes to anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing. Other countries are looking to PNG as a model jurisdiction of complex, and Pacific-specific, reforms. The passage of these Bills through Parliament will consolidate our reputation. Of this, we can be proud.

Mr Speaker, with that, I now commend this package of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Legislation to this Parliament.

17/06

Motion (by Mr James Marape) agreed to –

That the question be now put.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Bill, by leave, read a third time.

UNITED NATIONS FINANCIAL SANCTIONS BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Ano Pala** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a third time – put.

The Bill requiring an absolute majority of 56 Members as required by the *Constitution*, Mr Speaker, ordered that the bells be rung.

18/06

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, **Mr Theo Zurenuoc** in the Chair) –

AYES – 80

NOES – 0

Motion so agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

**MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING
BILL 2015**

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Ano Pala** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a third time – put.

The Bill requiring an absolute majority as required by the *Constitution*, Mr Speaker, ordered that the Bill be rung.

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, **Mr Theo Zurenuoc** in the Chair) –

AYES – 84

NOES – 0

19/06

PROCEEDS OF CRIME (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Ano Pala** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a third time – put.

The Bill requiring an absolute majority as required by the *Constitution*, Mr Speaker, ordered that the bells be rung.

20/06

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, **Mr Theodore Zurenuoc** in the Chair) –

AYES – 81

NOES – 0

Motion so agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

**MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2015**

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Ano Pala** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Ano Pala**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a third time – agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

ORGANIC LAW ON SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND 2014

Third Reading

Debate resumed from 29 July 2015 (see page ...).

The Second Vote, requiring a two-third absolute majority, Mr Speaker ordered that the bells be rung.

21/06

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, **Mr Theo Zurenuoc** in the Chair) –

AYES – 76

NOES – 4

Motion so agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

SECURITIES COMMISSION BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Richard Maru** and read first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Mr RICHARD MARU (Yangoru-Saussia – Minister for Trade, Commerce and Industry) – I move –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, and members of this Honourable Parliament, it gives me great pleasure to introduce three new Bills, which are related to this Parliament. The purpose of introducing these Bills is to update provisions in the *Securities Act 1997* bringing it in accordance with modern trends, It is and changes in the global securities regulatory regimes and the capital market infrastructure aimed at protecting investors and providing a more conducive business environment where shares or stocks can be traded efficiently without any risk on the market.

Mr Speaker, Parliament passed the *Securities Act 1997* in 1997, which was modelled on the New Zealand's *Securities Act 1992*. Since 1997, significant changes have taken place in the regulation of capital markets as the result of the 2008 global financial crisis. The principles of business, and the way shares trading and capital raising are connected on stock exchange markets are longer the same as it was in 1997.

22/06

Mr Speaker, since 1998 reforms the banking sector in our country has grown from strength to strength, however the capital market did not improve. Though the number of stocks listed on the Port Moresby Stock Exchange has increased to 19 there has been limited activity taking place within the Port Moresby Stock Exchange within the same period. There were no increases in the number of stockbrokers, no new investment advisors, fund administrators and so on.

Mr Speaker, currently the Port Moresby Stock Exchange is owned and controlled by two stock brokers. They also control who is given a stock broking licence to operate as a stockbroker and also to enter into other market intermediaries.

Mr Speaker, this morning I will present three Bills which, are related to establishing the Securities Commission of Papua New Guinea as an independent office with appropriate funding to be appropriated by this Parliament.

Secondly, the aim is to reform the Port Moresby Stock Exchange and the capital market in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, the three Bills are the following; a) the Securities Commission Bill of 2015, b) the Capital Markets Bill of 2015 and c) the Central Depository Bill of 2015.

Mr Speaker, I now present to this honourable Parliament each of the individual Bills.

(a) The Securities Commission Bill of 2015.

Mr Speaker and Members of this honourable Parliament, it gives me great pleasure to be able to introduce the *Securities Commission Bill 2015* which will repeal and replace the *Securities Act of 1997*.

Mr Speaker, Parliament passed the *Securities Act 1997* in 1997 which was more or less, modelled, as I said earlier, around the New Zealand Securities Act of 1992. Since 1997 a lot of changes have taken place in the regulation of capital markets and the principles and rules of business and the way the trading of stocks and the raising of capital in stock markets and the markets are no longer the same.

Mr Speaker, this proposed Bill will change the way businesses are done on the Port Moresby Stock Exchange. The Bill will recommend new developments in terms of corporate governance, clear guidelines on the objectives of the Commission, the establishment of the Board of Commissioners and allow the Commission to have the powers to investigate improper conduct.

Mr Speaker, the Bill will therefore establish the Securities Commission of Papua New Guinea, for example, currently there is no proper establishment structure of the Securities Commission.

The proposed changes will establish the Board of the Commission, the Office of the Chairman and the provision where staff will be recruited.

It will also provide the objectives and functions of the Commission were not available under the *Securities Act of 1997*.

The new Act will also provide specific powers of the Securities Commission to seek information. For example, the current Act does not provide powers to the Commission to seek or retrieve information from the commercial banks on details of transactions, bank accounts, and related information.

The proposed Bill provides the specific provisions whereby the Commission can request information from the banks, and if the banks fail to provide such information, the bank and the officer to whom the request was sent to will be guilty of obstructing the work of the Commission and therefore will be liable to prosecution.

The Bill will give investigative powers to the Commission. The current Act, Mr Speaker, does not provide in clear language the powers of the Commission, when conducting my investigations and inquiries against any breaches to the provisions of the law, first the proposed changes provides clear procedures and the processes of investigations and inquiry.

Mr Speaker, the Bill will also provide powers for the Commission to investigate and if it is satisfied that persons are found to have breached the Securities Commission Act and

other related legislation the Securities Commission will be able to now take those found to have been in breach to Court.

23/06

The Securities Commission will be able to take those found in breach of Court.

Mr Speaker, if you will recall there was an investigation and enquiry into the near collapse of the Investment Corporation of Papua New Guinea. Unfortunately, under the current Act, it does not provide for powers to investigate and prosecute those found responsible.

A senior judge was heading the inquiry and despite the moneys spent on findings of the inquiry, no one was prosecuted because the Securities Commission did not have powers under the provisions of the current Act. This is just an example of the inability of the Commission to deal with those who break laws.

Mr Speaker, the trust of the Bill is to establish the Security Commission of Papua New Guinea as an independent and fully pledged office. Currently, the office is a division of IPA.

The Securities Commission has not received funding and resources of its own in the last 17 years of its establishment. The proposed Bill intends to establish the Commission as a fully pledged office with adequate resources including funding and staffing independent of IPA.

Mr Speaker, once the Securities Commission is fully established it will ensure the capital market in Papua New Guinea especially the Port Moresby Stock Market and the Uni-trust industry, the derivative market and over the counter transactions are properly monitored and regulated.

The proposed Bill will also enable the Commission to license all stock brokers, dealers, fund members, trustees, investments advisors and other market intermediaries, the current laws does not provide for such powers.

Mr Speaker, this proposed Bill once passed by this Parliament and implemented will enable the growth of the capital market in Papua New Guinea at a new level. The market will allow Papua New Guineans to have access to alternative sources of investments and long term funding for capital raising.

Mr Speaker, with that, I now commend this draft Bill to this Parliament?

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That the debate be adjourned to a later date.

Debate adjourned.

POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESSES

Ordered – That Notice Nos. 268 and 270 be postponed.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance) – I ask leave of the Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent Notice No. 266 of Government Business this day being called on forthwith.

MT HAGEN CITY AUTHORITY BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Peter O'Neill** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Mr PETER O'NEIL (Ialibu-Pangi – Prime Minister) – I move -
That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to present to this Honourable House the Mt Hagen City Authority Bill to Parliament.

This is a very important Bill. Mt Hagen is a focal trading point of commerce for many provinces across the Highlands. I am sure that we have all travelled to Mt Hagen at some point and seen for ourselves the state of the town and off course the services being provided in that city.

Mr Speaker, there are mountains of rubbish laying in the streets of Mt Hagen today. Such situation is unacceptable. We need to do something so that we can manage our a bit better.

24/06

Mr Speaker, this Bill will create a new statutory authority, the Mt Hagen City Authority, which will be responsible for the management of municipal services in the greater Mt Hagen area. The authority will not replace the existing local level government, they will continue to operate. The LLGs will be responsible for the overall coordination, planning and budgeting. And they will continue to impose regulations, collect taxes and pass laws in that legislature.

Mr Speaker, we are creating a service entity and it will be responsible for the management of municipal services which include, street cleaning, lighting in the city, garbage collection and management of the parks and recreational areas. It is for the wellbeing of the visitors and residents of that city and these functions are very important. The authority will also perform the functions of the Mt Hagen District Development Authority.

If Parliament recalls, we repealed the existence of the Mt Hagen District Development Authority under the *District Development Authorities Act*, thus the Mt Hagen City Authority will become the only authority responsible for managing the municipal services and other basic services for the city. The authority will be headed by a Chief Executive Officer who will be appointed in accordance with *Regulatory Statutory Appointments Act*.

Mr Speaker, the CEO will then appoint the staff who will then manage the affairs of that city. It will be managed by professional and competent people. The authority will be subject to, *Part 8*; of the *Public Finances Management Act* and will receive grants from the national Government.

The intention is to ensure that we will facilitate for those grants in the coming 2016 budget. The new authority must be properly funded so that it can meet its obligations and that is to deliver services in that city. Like many other cities, Mt Hagen has been struggling to meet the cost of delivering services. and this Government is making a commitment to ensure it is properly funded so that the streets and living conditions of our cities will be clean.

Mr Speaker, on this note I commend this Bill to Parliament.

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That the question be now put.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Peter O'Neill**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a third time – put.

The Bill requiring an absolute majority of 56 Members as required by the *Constitution*, Mr Speaker, ordered that the bells be rung.

25/06

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, **Mr Theo Zurenuoc** in the Chair) –

AYES – 77

NOES – 0

Motion so agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori - Minister for Finance) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS RE-ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent the Governor of Southern Highlands in making a statement.

26/06

THE 400 YEARS OLD KING JAMES BIBLE – STATEMENT BY MEMBER – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr WILLIAM POWI (Southern Highlands) – I rise to make a statement on the 404-years old Bible that this Parliament accepted. It is an old King James Bible printed in the year 1611 which will become our national treasure and the property of the people and the

government of Papua New Guinea and it be placed in the Chamber of the National Parliament.

Mr Speaker, first, let me thank the honourable Members of Parliament for allowing me to make this statement on behalf of the delegation you led to the State of Indiana in the United States of America recently to receive a copy of the original version of the King James Bible, first published in April 1611.

Mr Speaker, the very act of the Members of Parliament of this honourable Parliament in allowing me to make this statement today, is in itself, an act of appreciation and recognition given to this special gift since the Bible touches the very core of our nation's experience and culture.

Mr Speaker this Bible is a symbolic representation of thousands of bibles of various translations cherished and treasured by our people it is imperative that I make this statement on behalf of your delegation to set the stage for an informed discussion on our national moral foundation as we seek to give a permanent place of abode for our special gift in the Parliament.

It is timely that we, as responsible leaders, helped shape the debate and discussions concerning the place and role of God's word in our houses, hearts, and in our nation responsibly.

Let me begin by thanking the Prime Minister Honourable Peter O'Neill for vesting in me his trust and confidence by appointing me as his official representative on this landmark trip for and on behalf of the government and on behalf of the eight million plus people of this country and for being personally present at the Jacksons International Airport to receive the priceless book.

Mr Speaker, let me also thank the Leader of the Opposition and senior Ministers and Members of Parliament who were also present at the Jackson's Airport on that historic afternoon of 27 April, 2015 to welcome the 400 - year old King James Bible.

Their presence in front of a record crowd declared to the world that in PNG God's love from the Bible permeates through political, social, religious and cultural barriers to unite us. It was indeed a grand show of national unity on that great historic day.

Allow me, Mr Speaker, to express our sincere gratitude to the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea for according the 400 - year old Bible the highest order of protocol by receiving it at the Government House.

Finally the church, the Body of Christ in Port Moresby is particularly acknowledged for preparing the arrival of the Bible. It was the first of its kind when the church clergy and the political leaders came together with the people to honour the Word of God.

Mr Speaker, considering the symbolic significance of this gift, it humbles me greatly to inform the parliament that it was a special privilege for me to accompanied your delegation, especially in my capacity as the special representative of the Prime Minister to receive the donation.

Mr Speaker, now allow me to make a mention about the King James Bible to help the honourable Members understand and appreciate its importance.

The antique Bible is one of the first copies of the First Edition of the King James Bible printed in the year 1611. It is one of the three copies known to be the best and well preserved to be in existence in the world today. In it measured 17 inches and has been kept in its original form for the last 400 years. Our copy is printed on cotton linen fabric with wooden covers, calf's skin and brass covering in certain stress areas.

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This one is the finest of the 3 copies. This translation of the King James Bible has been built on the foundation of past translations starting with Gutenberg Bible, the Coverdale Bible, the Great Bible then the Geneva Bible and finally the Bishops Bible. All of these bibles were authorised English translation which were translated between the years 1450 and 1560.

Mr Speaker, in the year 1604, King James ordered a review of these Bibles and subsequently the production of the King James Bible. The first edition was produced in the 1611 by the Kings Royal Press.

Let me inform the Parliament that King James I, as the first king of United Kingdom authorised the translation of the Bible. As the head of the government and as a learned man, the king took a special interest in the kind of ideas and philosophies that would influence his people and his country. The king himself provided oversight of the three teams of scholars from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and Westminster who took seven laborious years to carefully study, translate and produce the King James Bible. When the final print came out in April 1611, it was described as the Glory of England.

Its impact on the English speaking world is unparalleled. It stands still as a book of great language and beauty. There has never been a book to match it. It has a fair claim to be

the most pivotal book ever written, a claim made by poets and statesman and supported by tens of millions of readers and congregations.

The King James Bible was the steel of will and belief that forged America and other British colonies. It has inspired missionaries around the globe and consoled the hopeless in their desperation. It was used by the enforcers of slavery and later by the liberators of slaves, and transformed into liberation theology by the slaves themselves. It has defined and re-defined sexual attitudes. It has fortified and provoked philosophies. Followers of the King James Bible provided the vocabulary and the construction-model for the early development of democracy.

Mr Speaker, since 1611 the King James Bible has flooded the world. Abraham Lincoln described the book as the best book that God has given man. Charles Dickens wrote, the Bible is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world. George Washington, the founding president of the United States, said, "it is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible".

President Gerald Ford said to the Americans, and I quote, "Without God there could be no American Government, nor an American way of life". Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd President of the USA said, "I have always said, I always will say, that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands. Even the Queen Elizabeth once said, "England gave us Shakespeare but it was the Bible that made England".

Mr Speaker, the very book which inspired the leaders of England, Europe and America to build their nations is here with us today.

The donor of the gift the late Dr Gene Hood was an American missionary, a renowned business leader and a senior statesman in the State of Indiana. He was well respected in the political, commercial and church circles in his state, home country and abroad. Late Dr Hood was responsible for setting up of Wantok Radio Light services in PNG.

During his last field visit to PNG, Dr Hood visited our Parliament, and he was deeply moved when he saw the significance of your vision, Mr Speaker to restore, reform and modernise the Parliament. This encounter compelled him to donate to the 9th Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea his priceless gift, the 400 year old Bible, his most precious possession. Upon releasing to us his priceless possession, Mr Speaker, I am deeply saddened to inform Parliament that Dr Hood also gave up his precious life. His 54 years of undivided service to God and to humanity ended with the release of his precious book.

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Mr Speaker, our history proves that the Bible was the power that brought peace to our people and paved the way for thousands of our divided tribes to come as one. Without doubt the Bible has been the single most powerful catalyst that pacified feuding tribes and honours peace and unity.

Mr Speaker, the book titled, '*The Lutheran Church in PNG*', The First hundred years, gives us a glimpse of our fragmented past and how the Bible united us, and I quote, 'when the first missionaries came to New Guinea, they were entering the most socially fragmented region in the world. In some parts of the Highlands, people lived in a state of near constant warfare, being self-sufficient and fearful of the enemy. Many people would pass their whole life time without venturing beyond their clan boundaries. Social divisions were accompanied by linguistic divisions. It is understandable that one of the early missionaries cried, why was Bible transferred to New Guinea?'

Mr Speaker, lest we forget our divided past, I must remind this Parliament that it was the word of God that brought us together as one people. Here is a quotation from the same book, Mr Speaker, 'the common experience that God created for the New Guineans, a strong feeling of belonging to each other. They all belong to the new God, if he was the father then they were sisters and brothers. The same God was valid for all and constituted a mighty incentive towards unification. All opponents who are reconciled tribes that were formally completely separated became united and a great peace entered.'

Mr Speaker, realising this, colonial government officials relied more and more on the missionaries to bring peace among our people. A missionary wrote of his experience and I quote, 'even the most skillful, blameless and strongest government would never be able to accomplish this. In time the common experience of God led to the development of a new social order.'

Mr Speaker, I have this noble opportunity to remind the Members of this Honourable Parliament that the time has come for us as elected leaders to clearly define establish, and promote the unity of our people on this time tested and historically proven source, the Bible. Let the 404 year old King James Bible remind the Parliament of this unshakeable and undeniable truth.

National unity was built on the Bible by the missionaries and the Christian churches. When we forget this, we will be doomed to failure with many countries who have forgotten their Christian heritage.

Mr Speaker, now touching on the root of constitutional democracy, the King James Bible reminds us remains a cornerstone. Mervlyn Bragg in his book titled 'The Book of Books' published in 2011 to commemorate the 400 year old King James Bible wrote, and I quote, 'democracy as it took root and developed in Britain and then in America in the 17th Century owed an essential depth to reformation and to the King James Bible. This could be its greatest achievement and the Bible was the keystone in the breach to democracy.' He further said, 'without a vernacular Bible, the English Bible in particular through its impact on the reformation on English politics, there could not have been democracy as we know it today or even what we call the Free World today.'

Mr Speaker, the Bible and the Church also became the cornerstone of American democracy. Of this breakthrough experience, and I quote, 'nowadays in a circular society it is seems easy to diminish the part played by religion in the re-orientation of the modern world, but in the journey towards a full democracy, there can be little doubt that the experience of our religion, which grew out white reading of King James version was the defining condition.'

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Mr Speaker, I am saying that the 400 - year old King James Version Bible donated to us is the cornerstone of our own constitutional democracy, our Westminster System of Government and the Basic Freedom and Rights under our *Constitution*, including the rule of law are the fruits of the King James Bible.

PNG Constitution, Mr Speaker, now coming to the framing of our Constitution, let me remind the honourable Parliament that our founding fathers stood at the crossroads of our traditional past and our modern future. They vividly remembered our past concerning our the Missionaries, through the preaching of the Bible, united our fragmented people into one great nation.

Therefore the Founding Father, in the *preamble* of our *Constitution* called for the adaptation, preservation and passing on of the Christian principles we inherited to our future generations.

The Preamble of our *Constitution* also explicitly declares 'We the people do now establish this sovereign nation and declare ourselves under the guiding hand of God to be the Independent' State of Papua New Guinea;

In our Constitution, Mr Speaker, we have adopted the rule of law and fundamental rights according to *Section 35-37* and qualified rights pursuant to *Sections 37-56* which were given birth by the King James Bible.

Our Members of Parliament and our Ministers, Members of the National Judicial Services and departmental heads swore an oath on the Bible in accordance with *Section 27* of the Constitution. We are not alone in following this convention.

Mr Speaker, in 1953 when Queen Elizabeth the Second was crowned in Westminster she swore an oath on the King James Bible. In America, from President George Washington to Barrack Obama were sworn in as presidents on the King - James Bible. This is no mere ceremonial token either.

It is the same in the United Kingdom or the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, PNG and elsewhere.

Mr Speaker, this binding ritual signifies and honours a bond of faith and acknowledgement of the unique power of the Bible.

Mr Speaker, under *Section 82 and 83 of our Constitution* the Queen of Great Britain is the Head of State. The Queen is also the head of the Church.

The time has come, Mr Speaker, for the Book of our Head of State to be placed in the Commonwealth Parliament as our national treasure symbolising our national unity.

I must further reiterate, Mr Speaker, the Strategic Pillar Number Six of the Vision 2050 calls for spiritual development of our people and directs the State to welcome and include church as key partners in nation building. Section 16(2) directs the government to develop love and respect for God, humanity and God's creation.

It also calls for the need to instil positive attitudes and values of respect, integrity, excellence, and discipline in people and the priority activity to achieve this outcome is to introduce religious instructions at all levels of education, fellowship in all government offices and State-owned enterprises.

Mr Speaker, another priority of Strategic Pillar Six is for the Parliament to develop a policy for partnership in engaging chaplains for Parliament and key institutions.

Mr Speaker, your House Committee's decision to bring the 400 year old King James Bible into the country and into this Parliament is consistent with your reform and it is also consistent with our Vision 2050 and our *Constitution*.

Theological threats, Mr Speaker, we must be mindful of external forces and competing ideas that might undermine our Christian heritage and the source of our democratic strength.

Papua New Guinea is a member of the global community. We have opened up our country to foreign interest and influences. Consequently we are now open to competing ideological forces that have the potential to negatively influence and destroy our unity, undermine our Christian values and weaken our constitutional democracy,

We know that our nation of a thousand tribes is held together by our Christian spirit of benevolence that synergies with our noble tradition of egalitarianism. As materialism and individualism crept into our social fabric the risk of disintegration is present,

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Unless we act urgently with intent and purpose to build our nation on the Book that gave birth to democracy, we are doomed to drown and disintegrate in the flood of relative and postmodern ideologies.

Mr Speaker, these conflicting ideologies pose a real threat to our constitutional democracy because they collectively dismiss God's Word, the Bible as being irrelevant to individuals and government.

Mr Speaker, echoing your own words, we need moral principles and values more than anything else in this nation, and the Bible as being the mother of our constitutional democracy, is the only source that contains the moral values you call for.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, we cannot allow our children and our nation to be influenced by ideas that are subjective and void of moral standards. We, as leaders, must now resolve to consciously accept and promote the Christian principles and the Bible as our objective ideological source to direct our nation's development path into the further.

The need to restore and reform the moral basis of our nation is indeed urgent. I hope the 400-year-old King James Bible will spark reforms in us as it did to Great Britain.

Mr Speaker, I now move on to Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's Prayer. I take this time to pay special tribute to two of our founding fathers who are with us today, the right Honourable Sir Julius Chan, and Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare. They gave us independence and beautifully crafted our Constitution. While Sir Julius Chan established a strong economic foundation, Sir Michael Somare established a strong moral foundation.

Mr Speaker, the finest moment of our Grand Chief's moral leadership performance, the shining point of his national life, in my view, was his defining prayer in 2007. By this prayers, the founding father repented on our behalf and disconnected us from our ancestral worship, witchcraft and black magic and idolatry, and dedicated the country to the God of the Bible under a sacred covenant.

Mr Speaker, I quote a part of his sacred prayer, which reads:

“Now in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, I the Prime Minister and found father of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the people of Papua New Guinea repent from our iniquities and transgression, and rededicate our nation to you Almighty God. Today as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, and on behalf of the people and the nation of Papua New Guinea, I make this new covenant with you. On this day, I pledge our allegiance to serve no other god but you.”

Mr Speaker, in essence, our founding father, through this prayer, reformed our nation, and put us right with God. He showed us a new direction consistent with his Vision 2050 and the *Constitution*. The Grand Chief’s defining prayer provided the inspiration for the House Committee and your Vision Mr Speaker, to restore, reform and modernize the Parliament.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I commend you for standing bold and tall in interpreting the trend correctly and seeing the vision to continue from where our founding fathers left, to bring us to this stage. The statement I make today forms a small part of that process, which our founding fathers and you have initiated.

Mr Speaker, now I move on Prime Minister Peter O’Neill’s grand reception speech, please allow me to once again acknowledge our Prime Minister Honourable Peter O’Neill and the Leader of the Government Business for the historic action taken in August 2014 by suspending Parliament to allow prayer in Parliament. I believe no Prime Minister, no government and no Parliament anywhere on earth has ever done what we did on that day.

Mr Speaker, in his welcome speech upon the arrival of the King James Bible at Jackson’s Airport, in the presence of multitudes, our Prime Minister declared that “Papua New Guinea is a Christian Country.” This declaration was carried far and wide, locally and internationally, by the media. In his welcome speech, the Prime Minister spoke on the symbolic significance of 40 years and the reception of the antique Bible on the 40th year of our independence. Connecting the Bible to our Vision 2050, the Prime Minister said, and I quote: “As we together to build a modern and a prosperous Papua New Guinea that is healthy, wealthy and wise, we must continue to draw comfort and strength from the Bible on all important occasions, it must provide us a direct link to our spiritual heritage”

The Prime Minister then recommended the Bible to guide us in the development of our nation and directed the 400-years-old King James Bible to be kept in Parliament as our National Treasure.

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Mr Speaker, to conclude, I want to say that today on the eve of our 40th year of Independence, I take this opportunity to call on the ninth Parliament to recognise, resolve and receive the bible as the source of our national unity and constitutional democracy. In making this call I agree with our Prime Minister, that the number 40 is a symbolic number. This number symbolises the cross over from poverty to prosperity.

From a lower status to a higher status and from slavery to freedom. Mr Speaker, we are turning this year, 40, let me draw a parable from the story of Moses and Joshua of the bible. Our turning 40 resembles the 40 year journey made by the people of Israel in the wilderness and crossing over to the other side of the River Jordon at the end of the 40 year period.

As the children of Israel led by Joshua, who are preparing to cross over the Jordon River, they renewed their commitments to God collectively as a nation. Today as part of the Joshua generation, I stand to declare Joshua's statement and I quote from the book of Joshua 24:15, if serving the Lord seem undesirable to you, then chose for yourself this day whom you will serve. Whether the Gods your forefathers served beyond the rivers or the Gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household we will serve the Lord God."

Mr Speaker, today, I also pray and humbly declare, as for me and my family and the people of Southern Highlands, we will serve the Lord God. The 400 year old King James Bible was authorised by the predecessor, Queen Elizabeth II, who is the under *section 82* of our *Constitution*, and is also the head of the Church. Understanding that constitutional democracy and Westminster system of our government, as well as English being our national language, that our scattered thousand tribes who are united into a vibrant nation by the word brought by the missionaries. We affirm with the assertion that our constitutional office holders are sworn into office by the Bible.

Mr Speaker, realising that we have to build a healthy, wealthy and wise society we have to implement pillar 6 of our Vision 2050, which calls for active teaching and promotion of biblical principles and acknowledging that we are a Christian country, as dedicated by our Prime Minister and others in the past. The majority of our people are Christians and we recognize the need to maintain and promote our Christian values and moral principles to stop other immoral things invading our souls. We are affirming the sacred covenant of our founding father in 2007, the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare.

And finally in accordance with the decision of the House Committee which is chaired by the Speaker; and the decision of the Prime Minister, we move that this Parliament accepts the original 400 year old King James Bible printed in the year 1611, as our national treasure and the property of the people and the government of Papua New Guinea and placed in the Chamber of the National Parliament.

Thank you, may God bless you all. God bless Papua New Guinea.

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That Parliament take note of the paper and the debate be made an Order of the Day for subsequent sitting.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.05 p.m..